

REMARKS / DISCUSSION OF ISSUES

Claim 1-3, 5-11 and 13-14 are pending in the application.

In the Final Office Action, claim 5 is objected to for a certain informality. In response, claim 5 has been amended for non-statutory reasons, e.g., to correct the informalities. Claim 5 is not narrowed in scope and no new matter is added. It is respectfully submitted that the objection of claim 5 has been overcome and an indication as such is respectfully requested.

The Final Office Action rejects claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. 5,632,023 (White) or over an article entitled "Superscalar Microprocessor Design" by Mike Johnson (Johnson). Further, the Final Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5-11 and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 6,044,450 (Tsushima). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-3, 5-11 and 13-14 are patentable over White, Johnson and Tsushima for at least the following reasons.

The rejected claims are patentable over White, Johnson and Tsushima at least because those references, taken individually or in combination, do not teach or suggest all the elements recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 5, 12 and 19, for example (illustrative emphasis provided):

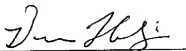
each functional unit is adapted to execute operations in an autonomous manner under control of the control unit associated therewith including transfer of control to the control means upon completion of an operation included in the loop and execution of instructions of a subsequent loop instead of being stalled or executing a no-operation instruction.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1, 3 and 10 are allowable. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2, 5-9, 11 and 13-14 are allowable at least because they depend from independent claims 1, 3 and 10, as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the dependent claims.

In view of the foregoing, applicant(s) respectfully request(s) that the Examiner withdraw the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) of record, allow all the pending claims, and find the application to be in condition for allowance. If any points remain in issue

that may best be resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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May 7, 2007

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